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INEFFICIENCY OF KIRGIZ SSR BRICK INDUSTRY HAMPERS CONSTRUCTION

Despite the fact that the Kirgiz SSR construction materials industry had been expected to double its output of construction materials, the industry has been failing to meet its objectives. The brick and tile plants have not been utilizing their capacities to the fullest extent.

In 1952, the plants failed to supply the republic's building projects with 4 million bricks and more than 400,000 pieces of tile. In the first quarter 1953, the output of brick and tile has been only 85 and 58 percent of quota, respectively.

The poor operations of a majority of the republic's brick plants have been one of the main reasons for the lag in construction.

In 1952, the Ministry of Construction Materials Industry Kirgiz SSR failed to fulfill its plan for plant maintenance and repairs. As a result, considerable time was lost because of idleness of equipment. The Kirgiz Construction Materials Combine fulfilled its quota only 60 percent. It fulfilled its plan for repairing its narrow-gauge railroad only 37 percent and did not prepare its dryers for winter operations. Mechanisms frequently broke down during the winter and there were considerable delays in the delivery of clay to the brick forming presses. During 1952 and 3 months of 1953, presses were idle more than 7,000 hours, or 25 percent of the working period.

Because of equipment idleness, the plants operated at only 78 percent of capacity in forming brick and at only 66 percent of capacity in firing the raw brick.

Instead of mobilizing the workers to familiarize them more completely with the productive capacities of the plants, the responsible officials of the former Main Administration of Construction Materials Industry created false reserves and inaccurately planned the utilization of brick plant capacities.

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The Kirgiz Construction Materials Combine has enormous potentialities for forming, drying, and firing brick. Nevertheless, its quota for 1953 is less than 90 percent of forming capacity and only 85 percent of firing capacity. A similar situation exists at the Przheval'sk Brick Plant, which has the capacity of forming and drying 17 million bricks and the capacity of firing 15 million bricks. However, this plant has been assigned a quota of only 8 million bricks.

The present Ministry of Construction Materials Industry Kirgiz SSR has been doing very little to coordinate the forming, drying, and firing operations at the brick plants. For instance, the "Krasnyy Stroitel'" Brick Plant in Frunze has the potential to fire 34 million bricks in 1953. However, its forming and drying capacities are only 23.8 and 15.6 million bricks, respectively.

These existing inadequacies in the utilization of the productive capacities of the plants hamper the republic's construction materials industry in its effort to exceed its quotas.

The republic's builders have been complaining at the poor quality of wall and roofing materials. The enormous waste in production and the production of substandard materials are the result of violations of productive technology. For instance, the Osh Brick and Lime Plant and the Kirgiz Construction Materials Combine had been forming brick and tile from clay which contained sand and gravel, and quite frequently set brick of high humidity into the kiln.

Taking advantage of the lack of control over the enterprises by the former main administration, the plant directors failed to set up any technological charts for their plants. Waste of material during the preparation of the raw material and during the firing process continues to remain enormous even now. A considerable amount of loss is caused by the neglect of storage of the raw brick.

Neither the former main administration nor the plant directors took any measures to improve the quality of the products or to regulate their distribution to the consumers. Despite the fact that brick cracks quite frequently after being fired, the consumers have been shipped brick direct from the kiln without any previous sorting for quality. Taking advantage of the great demand for brick, the director of the Dzhahal-Abad Brick and Tile Plant and the former director of the Kirgiz Construction Materials Combine used to upgrade their brick.

During the first quarter 1953, both the Przheval'sk and the Dzhahal-Abad brick plants, which are seasonal plants, have been unable to manufacture any brick simply because they failed to build up a reserve stock of raw brick during summer 1952, and thus have been unable to insure year-round operations.

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